

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SCI-06 FEA-02 AEC-11 SAJ-01

SAM-01 DRC-01 /146 W

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R 211150Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1025

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CE, IN

SUBJ: INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION

REF:NEW DELHI 6595

1. SO FAR GSL HAS ISSUED NO PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING

INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION. PRESS HAS CARRIED REPORTS OF REACTIONS OF OTHER COUNTRIES PROMINENTLY BUT IN COMPLETELY STRAIGHTFORWARD MANNER.

2. AMBIVALENT EDITORIAL IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED CEYLON DAILY NEWS MAY 20 MAY INDICATE UNCERTAINTY WITH WHICH GSL VIEWS THIS DEVELOPMENT. EDITORIAL NOTES THAT ON ONE HAND NUCLEAR TEST IS AGAINST INDIAN TRADITIONS OF PACIFICISM AND GANDHIAN IDEALS. OPPOSED TO THIS ARE REQUIREMENTS OF "REALPOLITIK WHERE MIGHT ALWAYS HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE EDGE ON RIGHT AND NUCLEAR STATUS BESTOWS ON A

NATION CERTAIN PRESTIGE AND INGITES RESPECT HOWEVER GRUDGING...". EDITORIAL GIVES SHORT SHRIFT TO INDIAN ARGUEMENT THAT NUCLEAR TEST IS ONLY MEANT FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES AND VIEWS DECISION TO EXPLODE NUCLEAR DEVICE AS DEMONSTRATION OF INFLUENCE OF INDIAN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT WHICH FEELS "IT MUST MATCH CHINA, IF NOT IN EFFECTIVE MILITARY CAPACITY, AT LEAST IN NUCLEAR STATUS".

3. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE GSL WILL MAKE NO COMMENT ON INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST IN KEEPING WITH ITS GENERAL APPROACH OF AVOIDING PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS ON EVENTS OVER WHICH IT HAS NO INFLUENCE. EXPLOSION COULD, HOWEVER, INCREASE LATENT CEYLONESE FEARS OF INDIA AND REINFORCE CEYLONESE SUSPECIONS OF INDIAN INTENTIONS.
VAN HOLLEN

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US Department of State
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30 JUN 2005

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